Higher Education's Involvement in Tennessee's Race to the Top

http://www.tn.gov/education/recovery.shtml#RTTT

With Tennessee's successful Race to the Top bid, higher education will have a significant role in achieving the overall goals of the federal school reform grant. Not only will higher education be involved in shaping the education reforms being enacted but will also be directly responsible as programmatic and fiscal manager for numerous programs. Individual institutions will have opportunities to apply for funding for projects that will address the provisions of the federal award. Tennessee's Race to the Top framework names THEC as directing and managing several projects with a total fiscal impact of over $20 million. These projects aim to accomplish the following:

- **Strengthen the ability of K-12 teachers to use TVAAS data in improving student outcomes**. Through engagement of individual institutions, THEC will work with SAS and Battelle to develop a module for teacher pre-service curriculum. This module will prepare teachers to use TVAAS data to modify classroom content to ensure student success. (Integrating TVAAS into Pre-Service Training: $1,350,000)

- **Improve the quality and quantity of teachers in K-12 education**. Through collaboration with the State Board of Education, TDOE, the UT Center for Business and Economic Research, and the 39 teacher preparation programs in the state, THEC will facilitate funding for projects that will improve the quality and quantity of teachers in the state. This will be accomplished through evaluating the capacity of the teacher workforce in the state and projecting the demand for teachers and principals. This will be done on a geographic basis as well as by subject area and grade level. (Integrating Common Core Standards into Pre-Service Teachers: $1,350,000 and School Leaders Supply and Demand Study: $172,800)

- **Provide accountability in teacher preparation focused on strengthening programs**. Responsibility for the Report Card on Teacher Preparation has been shifted from the State Board of Education to THEC, and this responsibility is addressed in the Race to the Top framework. The Report Card process provides accountability for the teacher preparation programs and their graduates and provides valuable feedback to the institutions to make programmatic changes. (Teacher Preparation Program Effectiveness Report Card: $432,000)

- **Increase Tennessee's competiveness in STEM**. The STEM network in Tennessee will continue to expand through Race to the Top through two new initiatives.
    - In addition to the two UTeach replication sites being currently funded by THEC and TDOE, the Race to the Top funding names the establishment of two additional UTeach replication sites at the University of Memphis and UT Chattanooga. THEC will facilitate these additions which will dramatically increase the number of secondary math and science teachers across the state. (UTeach Program Replication: $4,104,000)
    - THEC will also contract with the university STEM centers to provide high quality professional development to K-12 teachers in STEM disciplines. (STEM Professional Development: $6,480,000)

- **Expand the College Access Network**. THEC will receive additional funding to expand the current College Access Network and to assist students in successful application and admission to colleges and universities. (College Access Network: $3,240,336)

While THEC has primary responsibility for the projects listed above, there are numerous other initiatives in which THEC and higher education institutions play a role. The Race to the Top proposal team selected STEM as a competitive priority. Along with the STEM professional development managed by THEC, other STEM initiatives include: STEM Innovation Network Infrastructure, Regional STEM Hubs, and the Oak Ridge Associated Universities STEM Teacher Training Academy. Another area where higher education and THEC will have significant involvement is the state longitudinal data system. THEC and the institutions will provide data to build the P-20 data system being housed at UTK's CBER.

List of Projects from Race to the Top Managed by THEC: $20,369,136

1. Integrating Common Core Standards into Pre-Service: $1,350,000
    a. THEC will contract with an external source to provide training for college faculty. Training will be provided for faculty at no cost to the institution.
2. Integrating TVAAS into Pre-Service: $1,350,000
    a. RFP issued for development of module (geared toward SAS or Battelle).
    b. RFP issued for higher education institutions to receive funds to implement the module as well as contract with SAS for additional studies related to graduate performance as measured by TVAAS.
3. School Leaders Supply and Demand Study: $172,800
    a. This will be a direct contract with UTK's Center for Business and Economic Research.
4. UTeach Program Replication: $4,104,000
    a. These will be direct contracts with the University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga to implement the UTeach programs proposed through the RFP issued in March 2009.
5. Teacher Preparation Program Effectiveness Report Card: $432,000
    a. THEC will be working with teacher preparation programs to design a more effective report card. This will include the state-wide report card as well as institutional feedback reports related to graduates.
6. College Access Network: $3,240,336
7. STEM Professional Development: $6,480,000
    a. RFPs will be issued for STEM Centers to provide professional development to K-12 teachers in STEM disciplines.
8. Tennessee Consortium on Research, Evaluation, and Development (TNCRED) (This will flow through to UTK CBER.): $3,240,000